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From: canestro [mailto:canestro@mail.lifesci.ucsb.edu]

Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2005 11:36 AM

To: Melissa Miller-Henson

Subject: Central Coast Project Area selection comments from SIG member

Melissa,

I am not sure who I am supposed to address my comments to as a SIG member. Below are my comments on selection of the Central Coast Project Area. Please forward them to the BRTF members and other interested parties. Thanks for your time.

Dear Marine Life Protection Act Blue Ribbon Task Force,

As a member of the Statewide Interest Group and a University scientist/educator/reserve manager I have reviewed the "Proposed Outline of Information Required for Proposals for Alternative Networks of Marine Protected Areas" and the "Draft Criteria for Selecting the Central Coast Project Area". Below is my input on this issue. I have tried to address the specific criteria for selection of the Central Coast Project Area.

The area needs to be large enough to replicate habitat types and provide an effective network for a diverse array of marine species to live, reproduce and settle. Without replication there is little hope for a network of MPAs to be effective or their effects evaluated in a scientific manner. The criteria which suggests the area be limited to the range or area over which resources are utilized by user groups and which a resource user may be expected to have a working knowledge of the resources, may conflict with real biological parameters, and should be given much less consideration.

As Point Conception is the southern boundary of the Central Coast Region from a biogeographic and DFG management perspective, it should be the southern boundary of the Central Coast Project Area. The biogeographic significance of Point Conception is critical to a functional network of marine protected areas.

Assuming F&G managed fishery areas are based on many of the criteria proposed for central coast region selection (esp. resource availability and use), these areas should be taken into consideration for the determination of the central coast area designation.

An area from Pt Conception to at least Pigeon Pt would include 2 DFG management areas: Monterey South Central and Morro Bay South Central Management Areas. In a previous MLPA effort the Morro Bay region included Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception. In addition to a diversity of marine habitats it would include a diversity of terrestrial habitats each with different management strategies and goals. These include a military base (Vandenberg Air Force Base), PG&E's Diablo Canyon nuclear generating station, numerous state parks, UC reserves, three harbors (Morro Bay, Monterey and Santa Cruz) and Port San Luis. With these harbors comes a wealth of fishermen's first hand expertise/knowledge.

Current mitigation efforts for Diablo Canyon's intake impacts could provide financial resources for the MLPA implementation and monitoring effort.

Among the studies within this region data from (1) UCSB and UCSC Partnership for the Integrated Study of Coastal Oceans <<http://www.piscoweb.org/>>; (2) studies of the impacts of Diablo Canyon (Tenera Corp.); and (3) Minerals Management Service intertidal studies will all provide relevant scientific background information for this area and partners for ongoing research and monitoring. The value of intertidal habitats should not be overlooked, as they are important for the public (probably more, but less organized users than ocean going fishermen), research and education.

Last but not least, as the MLPA network of MPAs is to be science based, it is critical to follow the advice of the Scientific Advisory Team in determining the Central Coast Area and designating MPAs within this area.

Thanks for your time.

List of Central Coast Selection Criteria:

... **Biophysical boundaries.** Species of plants and animals are not distributed continuously along the California coast. Rather, they have distinct north/south boundaries. Many species form natural communities with borders that may assist in determining the central coast project area. Although the borders themselves may be fuzzy, the central coast clearly has two major zones, divided by the outflow from San Francisco Bay. A weaker, but important break occurs at Point Sur, where current gyres cause abrupt changes in the composition of the community of species.

... **Human activity boundaries.** The diversity and intensity of human activities in coastal waters also are discontinuous. As an example, recreational fishing is more prevalent south of Point Conception than north. The waters around Monterey are among the most popular sites for scuba diving in the United States. Government jurisdictions add another layer of complexity that should be considered.

... **Progress of past DFG and other public discussion groups.** This includes the three previous MLPA regional working groups, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Marine Protected Area Working Group, the Marine Interest Group in Morro Bay, and others. Input from these groups' prior discussions should be considered.

... **Potential state, federal and private partners with financial or in-kind services.** This includes NOAA's MPA Science Center in Santa Cruz and the Monterey Bay, Gulf of the Farallones, and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries, as well as the California Department of Parks and Recreation and others. Availability of services within specific areas should be considered.

... **Scientific knowledge of, and research being conducted in, the area.** Public and private entities, such as universities, state and federal agencies, and power generating companies (e.g. PG&E's Diablo Canyon) have conducted or are conducting research and monitoring studies in the greater central coast area. Area specific information availability, including information on the distribution of habitats identified in the MLPA, should help determine the final project area.

... **Availability of first-hand knowledge of the area.** Numerous scientists, fishermen, and other informed individuals collectively provide a wealth of knowledge within the greater central coast area. The level and availability of this type of information should be considered.

... **Availability of scientific data on existing MPAs and how they meet or do not meet both resource protection needs and the requirements of the MLPA.** Within the greater central coast area there are 21 MPAs in ocean waters as well as numerous estuarine MPAs. The amount and type of information available for these existing areas should be taken into account.

... **Existing fishery regulations in the area and how they meet or do not meet both resource protection needs and the requirements of the MLPA.** The greater central coast area spans several fishery management zones established by DFG, as well as nine DFG districts (three within the San Francisco Bay estuarine complex). Each of these zones and districts has a unique set of fishery regulations. These existing regulations create differences in the need for additional protection in certain

areas.

... **Range or area over which resources are utilized by user groups.** Within the greater central coast area, certain fisheries are more localized and port-based, while others draw users from a wide range of the state as well as out-of-state. The selected project area should reflect a consideration of these and other users.

... **Range or area over which a resource user may be expected to have a working knowledge of the resources.** Similar to the above, the geographic range of a user's working knowledge will vary with the resource or resources in question. This also applies to researchers, fishery managers, and other scientists within the region. The selected project area should not be so large as to preclude the ability of individual representatives to provide input on the entire project area.

... **Distance members of a regional stakeholder group would need to travel in order to participate in group meetings.** The greater central coast area spans roughly 275 nautical miles from north to south. Choosing too large an area for the central coast project could impose logistical problems for those required to, or interested in, participating in the process.

... **Availability of DFG personnel.** DFG has limited staff working in the four Marine Region offices within the greater central coast (Bodega Bay, Belmont, Monterey, Morro Bay). The same considerations relative to travel which apply to the regional working group would also apply to DFG staff.

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On line project applications: <http://RanchoMarino.ucnrs.org/>

Overview: <http://www.californiacoastline.org> Images 1927-1938

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